Basingstoke Observer

Thursday, November 2 - Wednesday, November 8, 2017

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Misery for commuters as more rail strikes loom
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High pollution levels spark concern over risk to health

By Eva Astreinidou

FEARS have been raised over the health of the borough as a new report reveals air pollution levels are rising.

In five areas of Basingstoke it has exceeded the legal limit with high levels of nitrogen dioxide particles found in the air.

The report by the Basingstoke Transition Network (BTN) found particularly high levels around Thornycroft roundabout, Eastrop roundabout and Roman Road.

Councillors discussed the report at a Basingstoke and Deane council meeting last week.

Councillor Paul Harvey for Norden ward, said: "It's really disappointing but I don't believe the issue has truly been on the radar for the borough council.

"This is not an issue that is going to go away because we are dealing with a lot of growth in our area. We want this to be a prosperous and appealing place for people to live in."

Cllr Harvey hopes the cabinet will authorise the undertaking of further research to help inform future policies.

The plan is to commit to implementing a much better system for the monitoring of air quality to ensure the borough's residents enjoy 'an excellent quality of life and improved environment'.

A recent report by the Royal College of Physicians said that around 40,000 deaths can be attributed to exposure to outdoor air pollution each year in the UK.

In addition, the heart, hormone systems, immunity as well as development and growth of the brain can all be harmed by air pollution.

Martin Biermann, a member of BTN, said: "The results are worrying. Unless we do something to clean up our air the health risk is only going to get worse as the town grows.

"We have made a series of recommendations to the council – but the main things we need to do are to reduce the number of car, bus and lorry journeys in our town and move to less polluting forms of transport as soon as possible."

Over the past few months BTN, along with Friends of the Earth (FoE), bought and installed 14 air quality monitors across the town assessing the level of nitrogen dioxide in the air.

Levels in excess of 40 μg/m3 are above the legal annual maximum – Thornycroft measured at 41.4, with Eastrop roundabout coming in at 48.5 and a monitor at Thornhill traffic lights in Chineham racking up 56.2.

Aside from the five key areas, their report showed that air pollution levels in another four places were so close to the maximum levels that it is almost certain that on some days air pollution limits are being breached - New Road was measured as 39.1.

Further decisions on air quality will be made in a meeting on December 8.

Deadly fun at festival

Almost 3,000 people turned up to watch a parade of skeletons, spiders, fire breathers and dancers as part of this year's extravagant Day of the Dead festival.
The event in Basingstoke returned to Top of the Town on Friday, dazzling passersby with its spooky and eclectic take on Halloween.
The night concluded with a colourful parade featuring a flashmob performance from members of local dance schools to top it all off.
The festival, organised by the Proteus Theatre Company, is inspired by its Mexican origins.

Picture: Stewart Turkington

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Decision day on £140m cuts as council debates services

By Eva Astreinidou

A MAJOR decision on £140million budget cuts across Hampshire is expected today.

Members of the county council will meet today to decide on cost-cutting measures for the next two years after a range of proposals were voted through last month.

The plans include scrapping subsidised bus services and school crossing patrols, reducing staff at libraries as well as closing half of the county's recycling and waste centres.

Council leader Roy Perry said: "It is important to note that any specific proposed service reductions would themselves need to have consultation so no immediate change is expected.

"We specifically asked officers to look at ways we might retain important front line services such as retaining household waste tips, community transport schemes and school crossing patrols.

"Conservative members are well aware how much these services are valued.

Last month, the county council said they are still looking for alternative plans up until February, when the budget will be formally passed and adopted, to lessen the impact of the cuts.

In response to potential alternatives, cabinet member and Liberal Democrat Alan Dowden said: "I understand that the money is a direct result of the current government and it is not just affecting our council, but at some point we have to say enough is enough.

"There is talk of utilising charity and volunteering groups as an alternative. Quite frankly how can that possibly happen when one of the proposals is cutting community transport that takes people to these very places?"

In October, Stephen Reid, cabinet member and Basingstoke South West councillor, said: "If we can find improved ways of getting to [the £140m savings] come February we will consider them, but at least we have a base point."

The proposals would involve £120m cut from the budgets of the various council departments, with the other £20m coming from internal savings.

This comes after reduced funding from central government, inflation, and an increasing number of people who are relying on social care.

Council tax is also expected to rise by the maximum allowed without a referendum – 4.99 per cent – next year. The decision on this is expected in February.

Having fun is child's play at the new park

YOUNGSTERS enjoyed a revamped play area just in time for the half-term school holidays.

More than 60 children and families turned out to a special opening of the refurbished area by MP Ranil Jayawardena on Friday.

The playground at Wellworth Park now has new equipment and surfacing, enabling more accessibility and combining modern equipment with classic childhood favourites.

Mr Jayawardena MP for North East Hampshire said: "It looks fantastic and will be a great facility for local parents and children, as it caters for all ages, from toddlers to teenagers. My congratulations to Hook parish council for making this happen."

At the back, Cllr Mike Morris; Cllr Jane Worlock (parish council chairman; Cllr Debra Davies (chairman of environment and community committee); Ranil Jayawardena MP with daughter Daisy aged 2; Cllr Jonathan Glen; Andrew Smith of play equipment installer Wicksteed and Sandra Tidy from Tesco with local children enjoying the new park

Wicksteed, who installed the new play area, provided goody bags for children in attendance.

Chairman of Hook parish council, councillor Dr Jane Worlock, said: "The parish council continues to work closely with the local community to provide leisure facilities for all our residents to enjoy."

Maintaining the old play area was becoming uneconomic and the parish council had been saving for several years to undertake this refurbishment.

Additional funding was provided via Tesco's Bags of Help scheme.

Charges after BB gun fired in man's face

TWO men have appeared in court after a man was 'blasted in the face' with a BB gun.

Police launched an appeal to track down two men following the incident at Stag Hill, Basingstoke, on Saturday at 8.30am.

The victim, a 28-year-old man, was assaulted after reportedly refusing to give two strangers a lift.

According to police reports, the victim was shot in the face and the back with what has been described as a BB gun.

The men then ran off.

The victim was taken to North Hampshire Hospital for treatment and was later discharged.

Travis Taylor, 21, of Branton Close, Basingstoke, has been charged with attempted murder and having an imitation firearm.

He appeared at Basingstoke Magistrates' Court on Monday and was remanded in custody.

He is due to appear at Winchester Crown Court on November 29.

George James, 23, of Stratfield Road, Basingstoke, has also been charged with attempted murder and having an imitation firearm.

He has also been charged with criminal damage and possession of a controlled drug of class B.

He appeared at Basingstoke Magistrates Court as the Observer went to press.

If you have any information relating to this case call 101 quoting reference 44170419133.

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Peter's pure gold for fans

FANS queued up to catch a glimpse of A-lister Peter Andre as he launched his new fragrance in Basingstoke.

The Perfume Shop welcomed the 90's singer and reality TV star last week as he unveiled his latest scent, Gold.

The first 200 fans were lucky enough to meet him and have the fragrance signed by him.

Hayley Brittain, Basingstoke store manager said: "We are really excited to welcome Peter Andre to our store to celebrate the launch of his latest perfume, Gold. I'm sure our customers are going to love the perfume and especially enjoyed a chance to meet the man behind the scent."

Peter took a break from a busy schedule of appearances, which include An Evening with Peter Andre, a talk by the star on his life so far.

Dad up for award after giving back to charity

Headway helped after son's accident

By Eva Astreinidou

A FATHER who has spent the past two decades volunteering at a charity which helped his son is in the running for a national award.

Alexander Johnston, 82, from Sherfield on Loddon, is up for the Volunteer of the Year award at the national brain injury awards.

He will join just two other finalists chosen from across the UK for the honour at the awards organised by Headway – the brain injury association.

Speaking about the honour, Alexander said: "I was surprised to be nominated to say the least. I haven't done anything special."

His fellow volunteers, staff and service users at Headway Basingstoke disagree.

Alexander, known as Sandy to his friends, started volunteering 20 years ago, after his son Daniel was left for dead by a hit-and-run driver.

Describing the shocking experience, he said: "He had injuries all over, from his head down to his legs. They never actually said he was a 'gonner', but he was badly injured."

When Daniel was referred to Headway Basingstoke to help with his rehabilitation, Sandy was asked whether he would like to volunteer for the charity and he never looked back.

He added: "Headway Basingstoke has been so good to Daniel and we're extremely grateful.

"I have always enjoyed volunteering there.

"I think humour is very important. It's true what they say, laughter really is the best medicine."

For the past two decades, Sandy has donated thousands of hours to Headway Basingstoke, and has taken on every job going.

He motivates clients to engage in their rehab activities, intervenes when an individual's behaviour becomes challenging and supports men who have lost their network of friends.

Alexander 'Sandy' Johnston with Karolina Narloch, Headway Basingstoke's administrator

He takes people on trips to the garden centre and the swimming pool, activities they would otherwise not be able to enjoy.

Heather Jury, service manager at Headway Basingstoke, said: "We all love Sandy dearly and appreciate everything he has done and continues to do for Headway Basingstoke.

"Without volunteers like Sandy, the voluntary sector would be a quieter, smaller and less effective place."

The awards ceremony takes place in London on December 8.

News Bites

Join Pelican run

The countdown is on for Basingstoke's first Pelican Festive fun run and it's not too late to get into training and sign up for a good cause.

Join hundreds of jolly Santas for a 5km or 2.5km fun run on December 10 in the town's War Memorial Park.

The Pelican Cancer Foundation raises funds for the charity dedicated to improving the quality of life for patients with bowel, liver, bladder and prostate cancers.

Men, women and children, aged six upwards, are invited to get involved. All runners will receive a fabulous Santa suit to wear around the course and a medal for taking part.

To register, visit https://tinyurl.com/ybq7jlah.

Harmonica theft

Two harmonicas worth more than £800 were stolen from a house in Kingsclere.

Police are appealing for help in tracking down the instruments stolen while the occupant was away between August 21 and October 24.

The Hohner 'Super 64' harmonicas were stolen from the house in Anchor Road along with some hand tools and stone edging from the front garden.

If you have any information call police on 101.

Dispersal order after officers assaulted

TWO police officers were assaulted in Basingstoke last week after a number of anti-social behaviour incidents.

A dispersal order was put in place after the incident on October 25 to help tackle the issue and remained in place until 10am on October 28.

Officers were called to McDonalds in Market Place at 5.25pm after a report of a disturbance involving a large number of young people.

During the incident, two officers were assaulted but not injured.

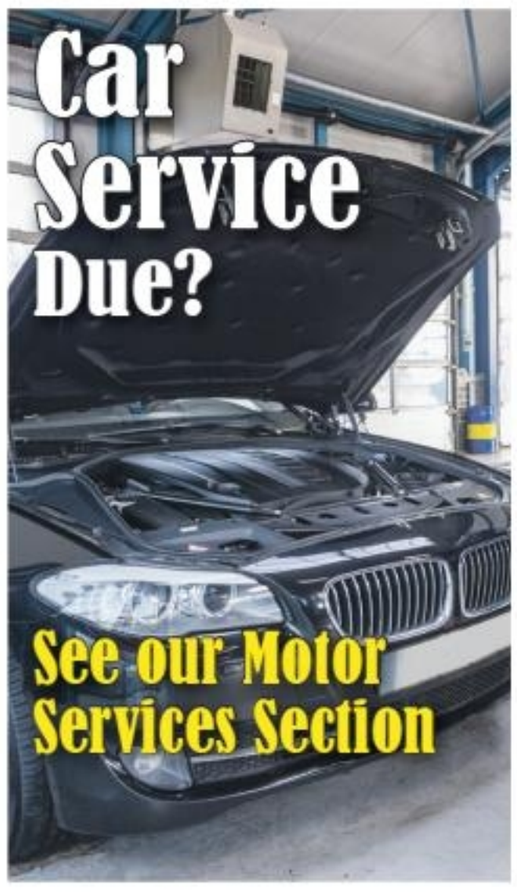
Two boys, a 13-year-old and 14-year-old, both from Basingstoke, were arrested in connection with this incident. They have been released but remain under investigation.

The dispersal order was in place to cover The Malls, Festival Place, and an area of Top of The Town bordered by Cross Street, New Street, Winchester Street, London Street and New Road.

Sergeant Trevor Taylor, of Basingstoke's Neighbourhood Policing Team, said: "Young people found to be behaving in this way can expect to be told to leave the town centre and for their parents to be notified.

"We are working hard with local businesses and local partners to address these issues, but I would also like to remind parents to ask what their children are doing and remind to them what is responsible and considerate behaviour."

If you witness anti-social behaviour, contact 101.



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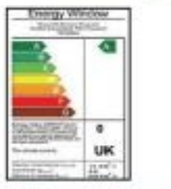

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Strike misery for commuters

By Eva Astreinidou

BASINGSTOKE commuters should prepare for 48 hours of misery from rail strikes following an on-going dispute over the 'attack' on the role of the train guard.

Rail union RMT said in a statement last week members of four rail companies, including South Western Railways, have been instructed to take action on Wednesday, November 8 and Thursday, November 9.

They have been advised not to book in for any shifts on those two days, to show solidarity in protecting the role of the 'safety-critical guard in the name of increased profits'.

RMT General Secretary Mick Cash said: "Every single effort that RMT has made to reach negotiated settlements in these separate disputes with the different train operating companies over safe operation and safe staffing has been kicked back in our faces and we are left with no option but to confirm a further phase of industrial action in early November.

"RMT is demanding that the Government lift the central blockade on talks, allow us to negotiate freely with their contractors and give us the opportunity to pursue the objective of a guard guarantee that puts British passenger safety before the rank exploitation of our rail network by overseas operators who are laughing all the way to the bank."

A spokesperson from South Western Railway said: "This is hugely disappointing given

the positive talks we have been having with union representatives.

"Our discussions have been around the introduction of a new fleet of suburban trains by December 2020.

"As part of these discussions we have guaranteed that we will roster a guard on every train; and that those guards will continue to be trained in safety procedures.

"No one wants a strike. I still hope that common sense will prevail and the RMT will come back to the table and work with us to find a way forward."

Elderly people warned to be wary of fake calls from police

CALLS from fake police officers who target elderly people are on the rise.

Hampshire police are urging members of the public to warn their elderly relatives of the issue before they part with substantial amounts of money.

In the last week officers said they have had reports that three people in their 80s from nearby villages who have given a total of £25,000 to fraudsters.

They all received a telephone call from someone pretending to be from the police.

The fake officer said they were investigating fraudulent transactions in the victim's bank account.

The victims were asked to withdraw cash from their bank. They were then advised that some of the money was counterfeit and a courier was sent to collect it.

In a statement, police said: "We are concerned there may be other victims, who are unaware they have been the victim of a fraud.

"We would never request anyone to withdraw or hand over money. If anyone receives such a call, they should contact us on 101 from a different telephone."

Officers advised that this type of fraud starts with a telephone call from someone pretending to be from the police or a bank.

The fraudster will claim there is an issue with a bank card or account and get people to reveal personal information, including their PIN number.

Once they have that information, a courier will be sent to collect the card, which they can then use to withdraw money from the person's account.

There are many other variations on this including being told of an outstanding tax bill or loan the person needs to pay off to avoid being arrested.

News Bites

Order breached

A 28-year-old man from Basingstoke is wanted by police.

Aiden James Riley is wanted in connection with a breach of a non-molestation order and harassment offences.

He is white, of slim build, around 5ft 8ins tall, has dark brown hair, and green eyes.

Police said they had been following several lines of enquiry.

Call 101 if you can help.

A n-ice boost

BASINGSTOKE'S ice hockey team are serving up a treat to raise funds for a cancer charity.

Long-time sponsor Zizzi will be opening their doors to fans on November 8 for the first of three charity nights with the Herd players acting as waiters.

The event for Ark cancer centre will feature a raffle with prizes including a signed Bison shirt and Zizzi vouchers. To book a table call Zizzi on 01256 358300.

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Development too big for area

By Eva Astreinidou

RESIDENTS are fighting plans to build 700 new homes saying the infrastructure will not cope.

The development at Owen's Farm in Newham Road, west of Hook, would see the construction of the homes as well as a primary school, a nursery, a retail outlet and a community facility.

Hundreds of residents have objected to the plans saying there is a lack of infrastructure to cope with the scale and that the development would degrade a scenic country path.

Neighbours have now launched a campaign to stop the application being approved.

Janet Leigh from Newham said: "We completely oppose the plans.

"The infrastructure will not be able to cope with the influx of people and around 1,400 cars on the roads. The road leading to the proposed development site is narrow enough as it is, you can barely fit two cars down it as it is.

"The traffic approaching the town will just be awful, the area is not able to cope with this many new houses and people."

David Thomas from Hook said: "Hook already doesn't have sufficient surgeries, shops, station car parking, village car parking, access to secondary schools etc.

"The facilities being proposed by the developer – assuming these actually transpire – don't address these needs."

He added: "It's nothing short of irresponsible to propose a development of such size in such a location."

People living there also claimed the development on this land would go against the local plan that states not to build on greenfield sites when it's not necessary.

In its application submission, Wilbur Developments which is representing Armstrong Rigg Planning said: "Development at Owen's Farm offers an opportunity to create an exemplary new settlement extension which would be a high quality community, well connected to the existing residential area.

"The development plans to adopt an approach led by green infrastructure and low carbon living and embraces sustainability at all levels.

"There are several key components to the proposed scheme that together can help reinforce this approach."

For more information on the plan go to publicaccess.hart.gov.uk/online-applications.

The plan is due to be decided by January 24, 2018.

Horses found abandoned and neglected in field

NEARLY 30 horses are in care after they were found abandoned in a Hampshire village.

Police executed a search warrant after concerns were raised about the welfare of 26 horses.

None of the horses seized in Highclere were microchipped, making it harder to track down who was responsible for them.

After the warrant was carried out on October 12, RSPCA operational superintendent Lee Hopgood said: "We are keen to hear from anyone who has any information regarding these horses and urge them to contact the RSPCA.

"We also urge people to seriously think about the commitment involved in caring for horses as this sadly happens far too often."

The horses have now been removed from the site and are in boarding facilities where they are getting the care they need.

The rehoming of the horses was made possible by collaboration between several charities, including Redwings Horse Sanctuary and World Horse Welfare.

Julie Harding, senior field officer at Redwings Horse Sanctuary, said: "This is sadly another example of an owner not taking responsibility for or meeting the needs of their horses – indeed in this case choosing to abandon without water or forage.

"As a result many of the horses were in very poor condition, which was very upsetting to see."

World Horse Welfare field officer, Sarah Smith, said: "It has been really distressing to see these vulnerable horses abandoned in this way."

If you can help, contact the RSPCA inspector appeal line on 0300 123 8018.

Officers found 26 horses when they carried out the warrant

News Bites

Burglary charges

A MAN has appeared in court after he was charged with burglaries in Basingstoke.

Anthony Reed, 22, of Quilter Road, Basingstoke, has been charged with two counts of burglary dwelling and theft, two counts of theft of a motor vehicle, driving a motor vehicle dangerously and failing to provide a specimen for analysis.

He appeared at Basingstoke Magistrates' Court on Tuesday last week and has been remanded to appear at Winchester Crown Court on November 22.

The charges relate to a report of a burglary at a house in Queen Mary Avenue, South View on October 22.

A 17-year-old girl from Basingstoke was also arrested but was released pending investigation.

Jewellery stolen

A JAR full of cash and valuable jewellery were stolen from a house on Corelli Road, Basingstoke.

The offender smashed a window to break into the house between 8.20am and 4.40pm on October 19.

A Sekonda watch, a Pandora bracelet with four charms, and a money jar containing around £200-£250 in cash was stolen.

Call police on 101 if you have any information.

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News Bites

Hare poaching

Police have stepped up action against hare poaching and coursing as part of a wider strategy to help tackle rural crime.

Hampshire police officers warned that these damaging illegal activities increase during late autumn following the cutting of crops and as the hours of darkness grow.

Sergeant Andy Williams from the country watch team said: "Poachers aren't the old fashioned characters seen in fiction. They are nearly always associated with other criminality, including rural burglaries, thefts and damage to property.

"Our powers include the seizure of dogs, equipment and even vehicles used in poaching and other illegal activity."

For more information, call 101 quoting Operation Thornley, or 999 if a crime is in progress.

Cheers to support

A wine and spirits merchant has chosen Sebastian's Action Trust as its charity for the next three years.

The Basingstoke-based charity was chosen by employees at Berry Bros & Rudd and will receive any charitable funds raised by the company until 2020.

Sebastian's Act Trust supports families of children with life-threatening illnesses.

Officers all kitted out to run for children's cash

By Eva Astreinidou

HAMPSHIRE police officers have smashed a fundraising target after running 10 miles in full kit for a good cause.

Members of Hampshire constabulary joined forces to take part in the Great South Run in Portsmouth last month in honour of children of police officers who have died or been medically retired.

The officers raised more than £3,000 in the process for the Gurney Fund, smashing their original target of £1,500.

The challenge was to run 10 miles in full Level 2 Kit, used by trained officers when they are met with a significant threat for which they need full body protection.

The equipment includes helmet, shields, arm and leg pads and body armour and can weigh 20 kilos.

Speaking about the challenge, chairman of the Hampshire police federation John Apter said: "They were so brilliant. It was a really good team effort and we are so proud of them.

"These are officers with very serious and intense day jobs and aside from their hard training, they have also shown a different side to policing. This is a fun way to do something important."

Mr Apter, who is also vice-chairman of the charity Gurney Fund, said: "The charity is not well known so the fact that they chose us is really humbling."

Ten officers were dressed as police and three others were dressed as criminals, adding a sense of humour to the event.

Gurney Fund works to support officers' children with a focus on their education.

In the past, they have helped families by financing school uniforms and shoes.

A spokesperson for the charity added: "Thank you so much to the efforts and staff from Hants police for raising money for our charity. You are all amazing."

To donate, visit https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/hantspol.

Deputy PCC: not possible to build our relationship

A FRAYED relationship was the reason a deputy crime commissioner had to leave her post after just two months in the job.

It was announced last week that former MP Flick Drummond would leave the position by mutual consent with the Hampshire Police and Crime Commissioner Michael Lane.

In a statement thanking Mr Lane for the opportunity, she said: "Sometimes it is not possible to build a professional relationship between two people, through no fault of either party. In such a situation it is right I leave to avoid any disruption to the work of the PCC and his staff.

"I wish Michael all the best with the excellent work he is doing."

PCC Lane said the outcome is a 'disappointment' to both parties.

He added: "The relationship between a PCC and his deputy has to be close and, unfortunately, it has become apparent this could not happen in this case. Following talks, we have both come to the decision that this is the best course of action to take.

"I would like to express my sincere thanks to Flick for all she has done for me."

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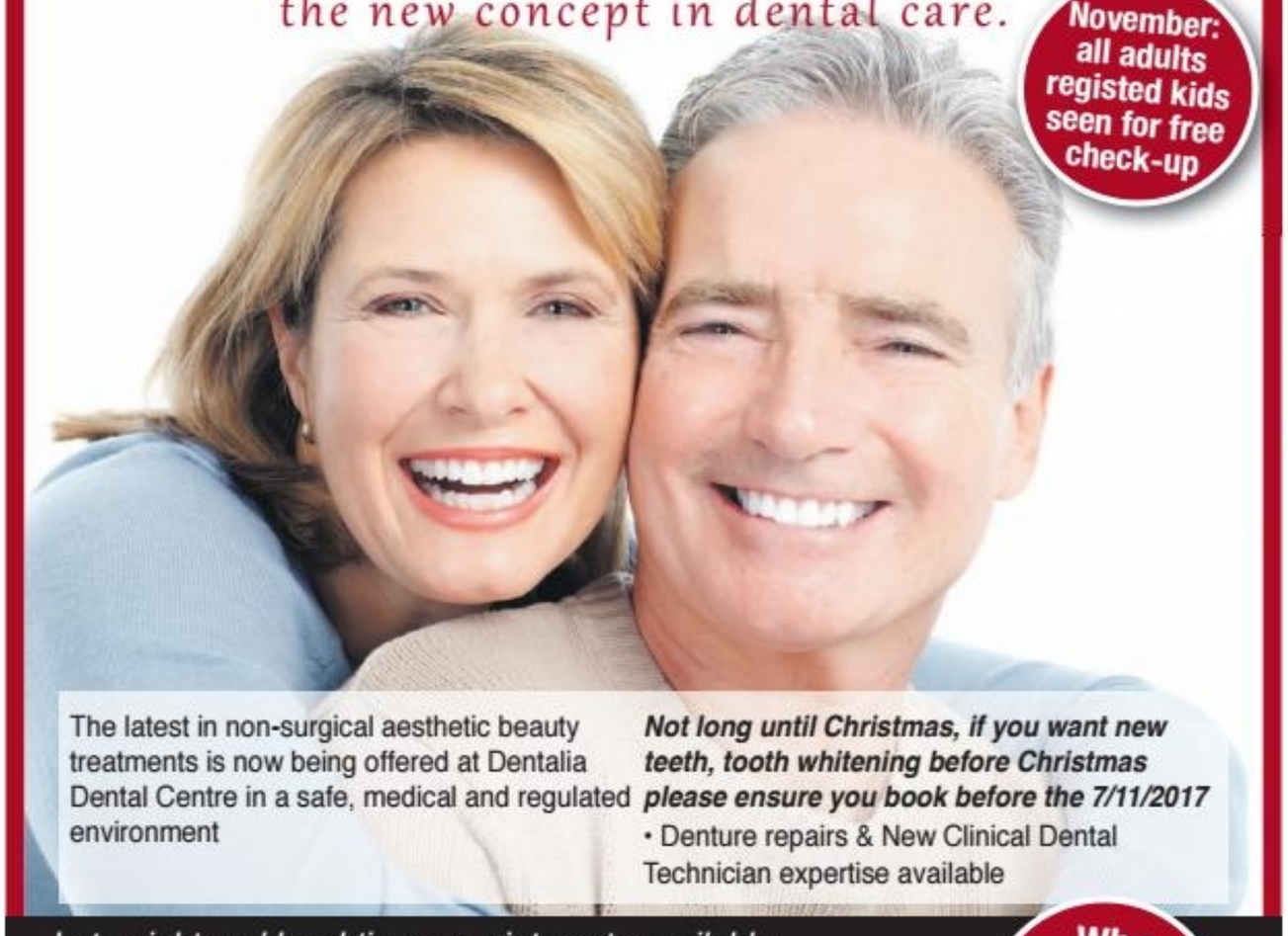

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Choose your sports stars of the future

SPORTS stars of the future could receive a financial boost to help achieve their goals in national, international and Olympic events.

Nominations are now open for the 28th Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council's sports grant aid scheme and athletes are encouraged to apply for a share of funding.

The scheme, administered by Basingstoke Sports Council, is open to athletes aged between 10 and 24 years old.

Applicants must live in the borough and be at least county standard within their sport.

If successful, the grants can be used to help with everything from travelling and coaching expenses to competition entry fees, equipment and clothing requirements.

Cabinet member for communities and community safety, councillor Simon Bound said: "With so much sporting talent in our borough, we are delighted to support them as they strive to succeed in their chosen sports."

All grant aid applicants are also considered for the local and county sports awards which recognise athletes across several categories, including club, coach and disabled sportsperson of the year.

Nominations for both the grant scheme and the awards must be submitted by December 2.

Contact amy.sambell@basingstoke.gov.uk.

Six-week extravaganza to celebrate Christmas

By Eva Astreinidou

BASINGSTOKE will soon celebrate the most wonderful time of the year with light shows, a Santa parade and a yuletide extravaganza.

There will be six spectacular weeks of Christmas festivities across the historic town starting from November 16.

Heart FM's Breakfast show hosts Matt and Michelle will kick things off with a festive and fun-packed switch-on at Festival Square set against the backdrop of a spectacular HALO Glow Show.

The radio celebrities will be joined by the cast from the West End's Lion King and the stars of pantomime Peter Pan, as well as Santa and his elves, to ensure everyone really is glowing with Christmas spirit.

At 6.30pm the next day, The Malls Christmas lights will be switched on to the accompaniment of the Oakridge School Choir.

From November 18 until Christmas Eve, families visiting the Christmas Grotto in Porchester Square can take on a fantastic arctic woodland walk on the way to see Santa.

Crowds enjoy the Santa parade with his elves through Festival Place as part of the celebrations

This interactive grotto experience, which can be enhanced further through 'augmented reality' content accessed via most smart phones, will feature a magical talking Christmas tree.

Children can even have a go on Rudolph's naughty-or-nice-o-meter.

The six-week extravaganza will feature reindeers, a Santa parade and interactive grotto experience, plus a Christmas market and an impressive theatrical line-up with Peter Pan, Christmas Carol, The Nutcracker and a Night Before Christmas just some of the shows hitting the Basingstoke stages.

The much-loved Festival Place Santa parade featuring street theatre and an array of Christmassy characters led by Santa and his elves will return at midday on December 3.

But that's not all - the Christmas market has been extended to include the whole festive season and will run from November 22 to January 6 in The Malls.

News Bites

Rough sleepers need your help

A CAMPAIGN to help the rough sleepers on Basingstoke's streets in the run-up to winter is in need of local support.

More than £560 has been raised of the £16,000 needed to fund this year's Night Light winter shelter and allow it to open seven days a week from December to February.

It is estimated that between 15 and 25 people are still sleeping rough on the borough's streets, so the Real Change Not Loose Change campaign is hoping to fund the shelter for them to use.

There are just over 70 days left to back this project and help raise funds.

To donate, visit spacehive.com/real-change-basingstoke-2017.

Nearly-new sale

GET one step ahead with Christmas shopping at Basingstoke's mum2mum market.

Featuring nearly-new baby and children's toys, clothes and equipment at bargain prices, the event will be held at Hatch Warren community centre at Longcross Lane on November 12.

Entry into the event, which will run from 2pm to 4pm, is £2 for adults and free for children.

For more information, visit https://tinyurl.com/y8js9yht.

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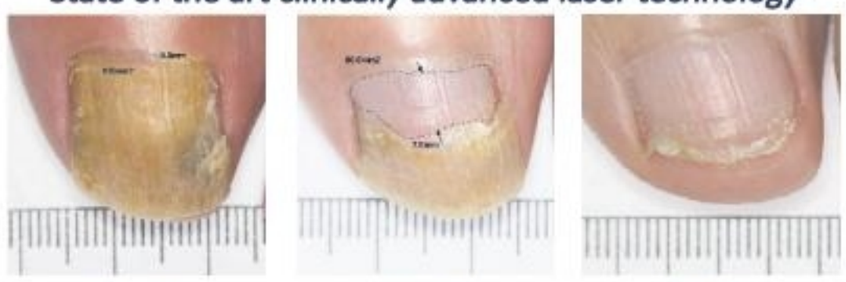

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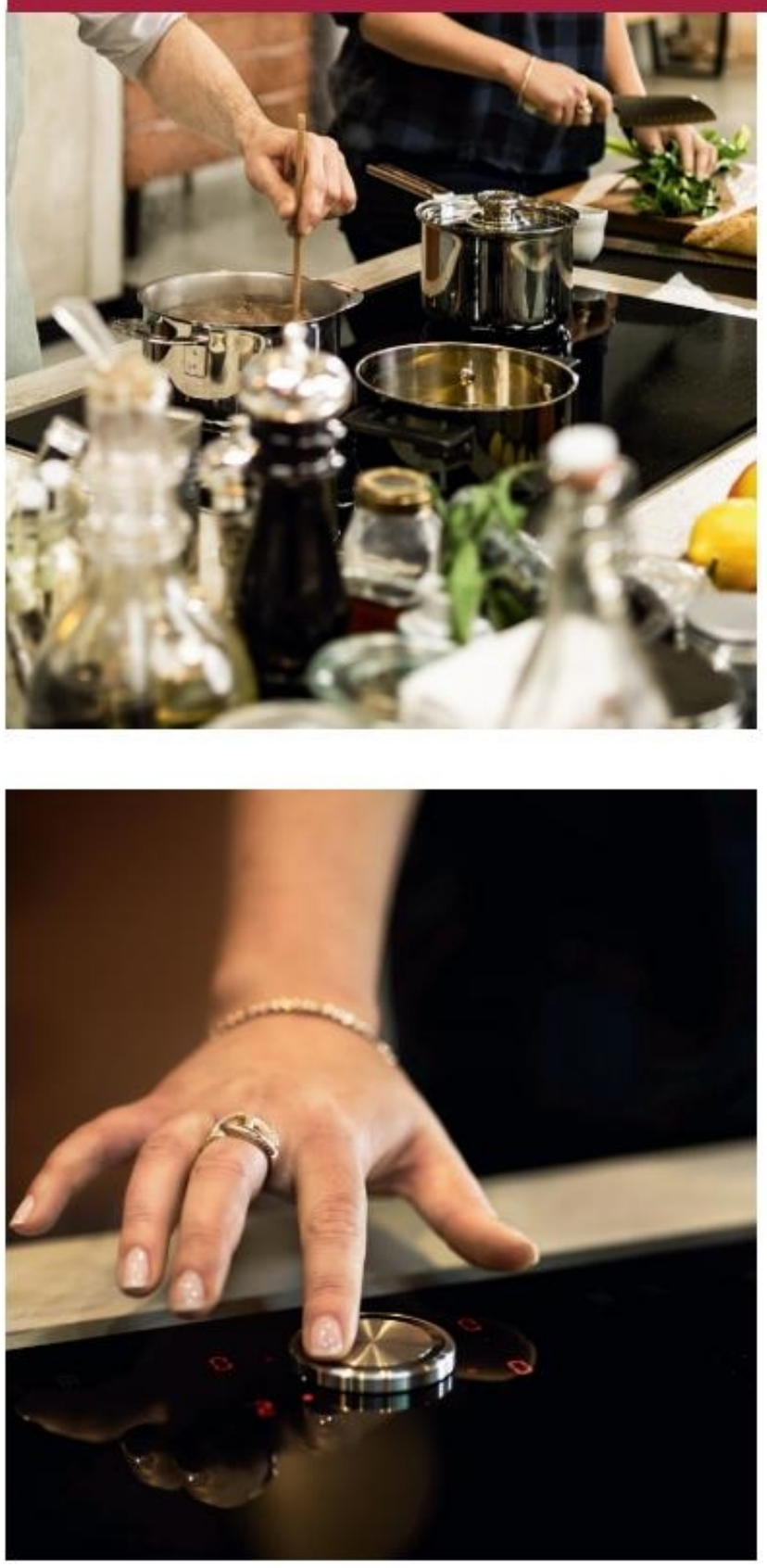

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PROPERTYWEEKLY

Boost your home's kerb appeal in just one day!

By Romans Group

"In today's property market where buyers' budgets are limited, you need to make sure your home stands out" says Antony Gibson, Sales Managing Director at Romans.

Read these four simple and cost-effective tips to boost your home's kerb appeal in just one day:

1. Turn your front door into a feature

The front door is the focal point of your property's kerb appeal, so turn it into a statement. Instead of replacing the door, repaint it with a fresh new colour that compliments the house – don't forget to clean the knob and check the doorbell works!

2. Replace old hardware

Check your house numbers, letter box, and entry door lockset are all clean, in full working order, and function collectively. These small details will ensure your front door makes a good first impression on potential buyers.

3. Lead them up the garden path

As winter approaches, more and more viewings will be taking place in low lighting, if you have a path leading up to your front door, make sure there are no potential trip hazards. You could also install some outdoor solar-powered lighting to clearly illuminate the path, as well as adding to the kerb appeal.

4. Create a front garden

If your property doesn't have the luxury of a landscaped front garden then you can easily create your own with some container plants, potted shrubs or window boxes – this will help your home stand out.

For more tips on how to make your home stand out, contact Romans on 01344 985 666.

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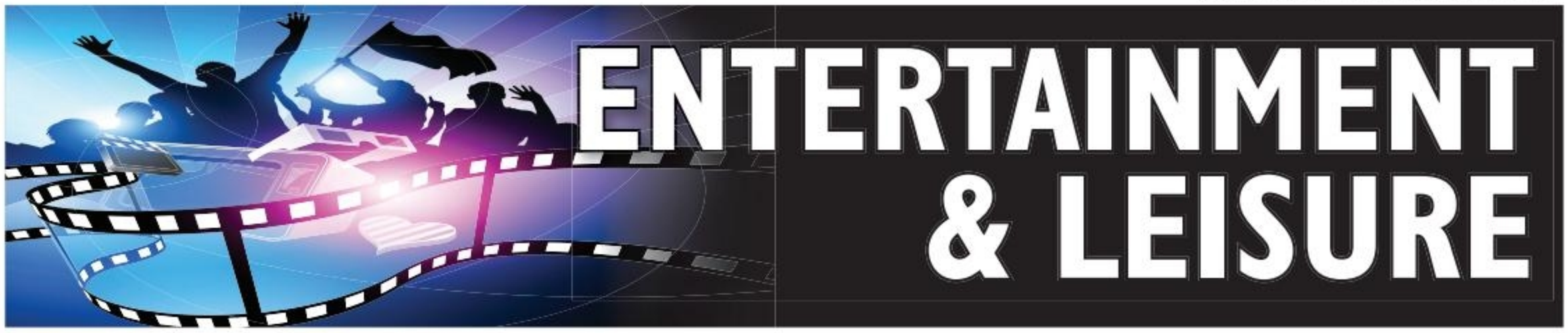

ENTERTAINMENT & LEISURE

Born to be wild

Survivalist, bushcraft expert, author, photographer and TV star Ray Mears will be taking audiences on a journey with him as he shares tales of his experiences on his UK tour stopping at The Anvil next week.
See inside for more

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ENTERTAINMENT & LEISURE

Go on an adventure with Ray

Join explorer on his latest tour and share thrills and spills travels

By Josh Cox

BORN To Go Wild that's adventurer Ray Mears – and audiences can hear him share his experiences on his new tour.

The survivalist, bushcraft expert, author, photographer and star of countless television series will embark on a 31 date UK tour this autumn.

Born To Go Wild will focus on the enjoyment of wild places and Mears will give audiences a unique insight into his wilderness travels and survival techniques.

Mears who has a new seven-part ITV series this autumn, Australian Wilderness with Ray Mears, will include tales of his most recent travels in Australia, trekking through mountains and deserts, rainforests and oceans to encounter the weird and wonderful animals that have adapted to survive and thrive.

He will also take the opportunity to talk extensively about fire, what it means to humanity and the essential role it plays in our survival.

The legendary Mears, who survived a helicopter crash when filming his first TV series in the early 90's and helped Northumbria police track down one of the UK's most notorious criminals in 2010, has been discovering the joys of exploring the wilderness from an early age.

Mears is fascinated by those wild areas of the planet that are as yet undisturbed by civilised human activity.

His fascination with this environment has shaped his life and established him as a leading voice in this field.

Mears will take audiences on a journey that he values for cultural, spiritual, moral and aesthetic reasons and explain why he believes these are vital for creativity and the development of the human spirit.

For two decades the name Ray Mears has become recognised throughout the world. His various television series Tracks, World of Survival, Trips Money Can't Buy with Ewan McGregor, The Real Heroes of Telemark and more have catapulted him into the public eye and inspired generations across the planet from small children to grandparents.

His down to earth approach, his obvious passion for his subject and the empathy and respect he shows for the natural world and its inhabitants have established him as a force for good.

See Ray Mears' Born To Go Wild at The Anvil on November 9 at 7.30pm.

Adult tickets to the show cost £27; over 65s are £22 and under 16s £19.50.

For more information or to book tickets to Born To Go Wild, call the box office on 01256 844 244 or visit www.anvilarts.org.uk.

Eight days a week

MUSIC: On Saturday, a Beatles tribute act will be performing at The Academy in Basingstoke.

Paying tribute to the fabulous four, the act welcomes all those who want to dance and sing along to the very best Beatles hits.

Carry on enjoying the evening with a DJ until 2am after the tribute act. Entry is £10 in advance or £12 on the door. Doors open at 7pm.

Boys back in town

MUSIC: The Syn City Rockers, a heavy rock and roll five piece band will be celebrating the music of AC/DC and Thin Lizzy at the Cricketers in Baughurst, this Saturday from 9pm.

The Reading based band are well known for playing weddings, parties and other functions; their gig this weekend carries no entry fee.

Father and son

MUSIC: The Steve Whalley Band will be gigging at the Kings Head in Alton on Saturday.

Expect fireworks this weekend as the father and son duo, Steve and Tat Whalley, bring their eclectic mix of rock, reggae, soul and blues to the pub.

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ENTERTAINMENT & LEISURE

Enjoy world-class performance

By Josh Cox

BE transported to Italy and then enjoy a world premiere when the Philharmonia Orchestra perform at The Anvil on Saturday.

The concert begins with Elgar's In the South (Alassio), a vivid evocation of an Italian holiday followed by the clarinet concerto by British composer Joseph Phibbs.

Phibbs was described recently by BBC Music Magazine as 'one of the most successful composers of his generation' and whose works have been premiered by some of the world's leading conductors. Phibbs' piece Rivers to the Sea was a great success when commissioned for The Anvil's 18th birthday.

After the interval will be Elgar's first symphony in which he followed the great symphonic tradition while managing to retain his own musical language. The steady march with which the piece opens reappears at crucial moments before being transformed into a triumphant conclusion, while the slow movement contains some of his most beautiful music.

The concert is conducted by Edward Gardner who sang as a chorister at Gloucester Cathedral, played piano, clarinet and organ. He attended the King's School, Gloucester and Eton College, later studying at the University of Cambridge. He continued as a music student, and was a choral scholar in King's College Choir.

Conductor Edward Gardner

The soloist is Mark van de Wiel, the Principal Clarinet with the Philharmonia. The well-known soloist performs at major venues throughout the world.

Tickets for the Philharmonia Orchestra are priced from £14 to £40; under 16s and full-time students cost £10, which includes a £2 booking fee.

For more information or tickets, call the box office on 01256 844244, or visit the website anvilarts.org.uk.

To be, or not to be

THEATRE: Shakespeare Schools Festival runs at The Haymarket on Monday and Tuesday presenting the world's largest youth drama festival for a series of productions staged by local schools.

Enjoy an exhilarating evening of theatre with Shakespeare's stories brought to life. Starts 7.30pm.

Full price tickets £11; over 65s, under 16s and students £9.

Jimmy at his best

COMEDY: Jimmy Carr will be bringing his The Best Of, Ultimate, Gold, Greatest Hits Tour to The Anvil on Tuesday at 8pm.

Jimmy Carr has been gathering a selection of his very best jokes along with brand new material for the ultimate comedy show this year.

The show is suitable for ages 16 and over. Tickets £29.50.

Enjoy a treasure

MUSIC: Basingstoke Symphony Orchestra will be delivering a Classical Treasures Concert at The Anvil on November 11 at 7.45pm.

Conductor Stephan Scotchmen will guide the audience through Tchaikovsky and Brahms.

Tickets range from £6.50 to £24.

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Omega

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SUDOKU

	7			1	5			9
		3	7				1	
	1			8	2			7
8						5	9	
		5		2				
	6	9			8			1
9			2	5			4	6
		4			6	2		
	5		4	7			3	

WORDWHEEL

You have 10 mins to find as many words as possible using the letters in the wheel. Each must use the hub letter and at least 3 others. Letters may be used only once. You cannot use plurals, foreign words or proper nouns. There is at least one 9-letter word to be found.

How you rate:
15 words, average; 25 words, good; 35 words, very good; 40 or more, excellent.

DOUBLE CROSSWORD

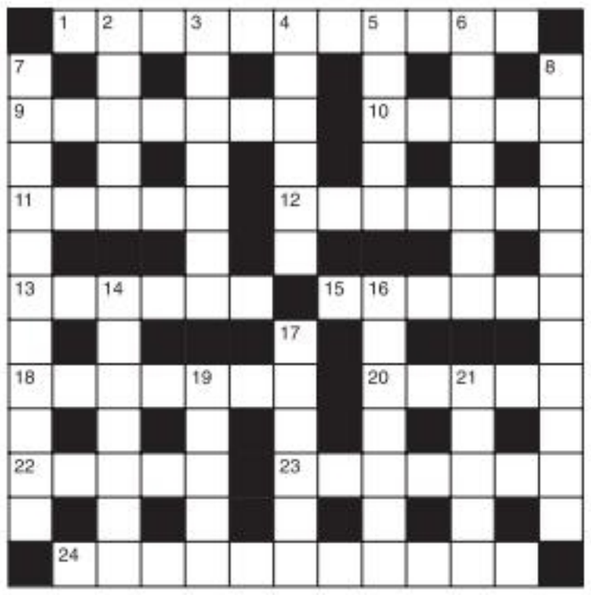
Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. They should know the ropes when making changes (4-7)
9. A capital crop (4,3)
10. Old Testament name put back in this maxim (5)
11. Part of the Riviera, we hear, for a member of the family (5)
12. Can vote for small change in South America (7)
13. To get entangled, she gets involved with men (6)
15. A summons will get the man to move in anguish (6)
18. Showed surprise at description of the motor cyclist (7)
20. Tips that produce low spirits (5)
22. A tremendous shout from the sailor (5)
23. A feature of some churches to cause anger (7)
24. Headgear for one at the stag party? (4,7)

Down

2. In the caramel I tested the cream (5)
3. Menials showing necessity? Yes, in a way (7)
4. Can't it be shown as complete? (6)
5. The brat is playin' for money (5)
6. Don't hold to one's statement about a religious paper (7)
7. Puts on fresh clothes, as the car-driver does (7,4)
8. Bed with a single flower showing shrub of the hawthorn family (11)
14. Get a man mixed up with big business (7)
16. Fundamental description of a political reformer (7)
17. Out of control in the main (6)
19. In Virgil, a term not so far back in history (5)
21. Address given by the parson, maybe (5)



Quick Clues:

Across

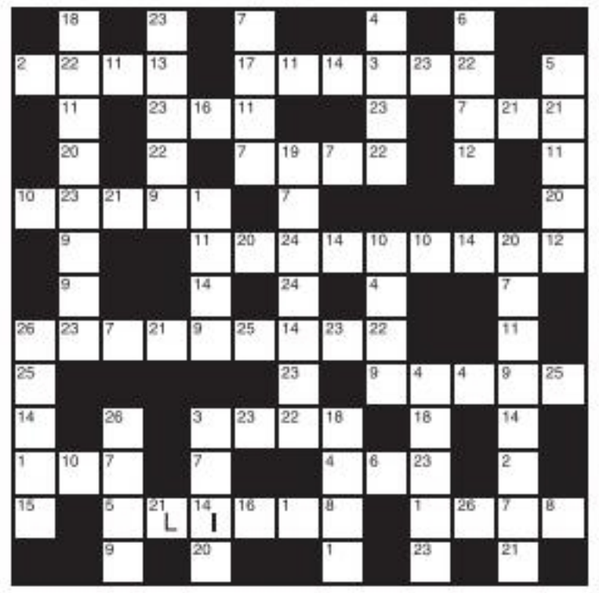
1. Calamity (11)
9. Cleft (7)
10. Freight (5)
11. Improve a text (5)
12. Bounty (7)
13. Declare (6)
15. Drooped (6)
18. Vacation (7)
20. Magnetic (5)
22. Confine (5)
23. Conveyance (7)
24. News (11)

Down

2. Passage (5)
3. Divided (7)
4. Triple (6)
5. Happen (5)
6. Crop (7)
7. Some time later (5,1,5)
8. Thoughtful (11)
14. Wise man (7)
16. Insert deeply (7)
17. Method (6)
19. The same (5)
21. Lariat (5)

CODEWORD

Codeword is the crossword puzzle with no clues. The number in each square corresponds to a letter. Work out the words in the grid using the letters provided. Fill in these known letters first, then use skill and judgement to work out the others.



A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 I	15	16	17	18	19	20	21 L	22	23	24	25	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

DOUBLE CROSSWORD:
Cryptic: Across: 1 Red Cross; 5 Ides; 9 Herb; 10 Arranger; 11 Stork; 12 Network; 13 Easter bonnets; 18 Boatbill; 19 Erne; 20 Widgeon; 21 Flair; 22 Dolt; 23 Bemusing. Down: 2 Electra; 3 Cabaret; 4 Spring balance; 6 Dogrose; 7 Strikes; 8 Canton; 13 Elbowed; 14 Scandal; 15 Emblem; 16 Needles; 17 Tension.

Quick: Across: 1 Pencraft; 5 Pomp; 9 Mean; 10 Practice; 11 Debar; 12 Edifice; 13 State of unrest; 18 Amicable; 19 Feat; 20 Diocese; 21 Vague; 22 Meet; 23 Assented. Down: 2 Element; 3 Contact; 4 Forgetfulness; 6 Orifice; 7 Present; 8 Action; 13 Stardom; 14 Adipose; 15 Eraser; 16 Refrain; 17 Statute.

SUDOKU:

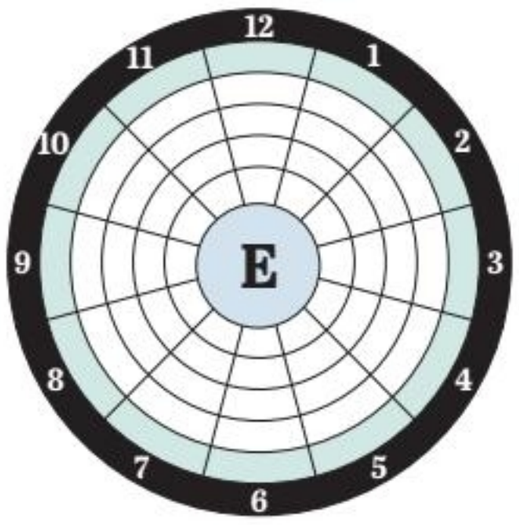
7	9	8	2	6	5	1	4	3
1	5	6	8	3	4	7	2	9
4	3	2	9	7	1	5	8	6
3	2	9	5	8	6	4	1	7
6	8	4	3	1	7	2	9	5
5	7	1	4	9	2	3	6	8
8	4	3	1	5	9	6	7	2
2	6	5	7	4	8	9	3	1
9	1	7	6	2	3	8	5	4

CODEWORD:
1=U, 2=D, 3=X, 4=E, 5=Q, 6=G, 7=O, 8=S, 9=K, 10=L, 11=P, 12=Z, 13=I, 14=V, 15=W, 16=Y, 17=R, 18=C, 19=J, 20=M, 21=H, 22=N, 23=T, 24=A, 25=B, 26=F.

WORD WHEEL:
SPECIFIED.

CLOCKWORD

The solutions from 1 to 12 are all six-letter words ending with the letter E in the centre. Moving clockwise from 1, the letters in the outer circle will spell out the name of a young English actor.



1. Spot
2. Respect
3. Individual
4. Association
5. Sewing tool
6. Breathe in
7. Fort
8. Rush
9. Citrus fruit
10. Sheen
11. Living room
12. Globe

NINER

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

THE CLUES:

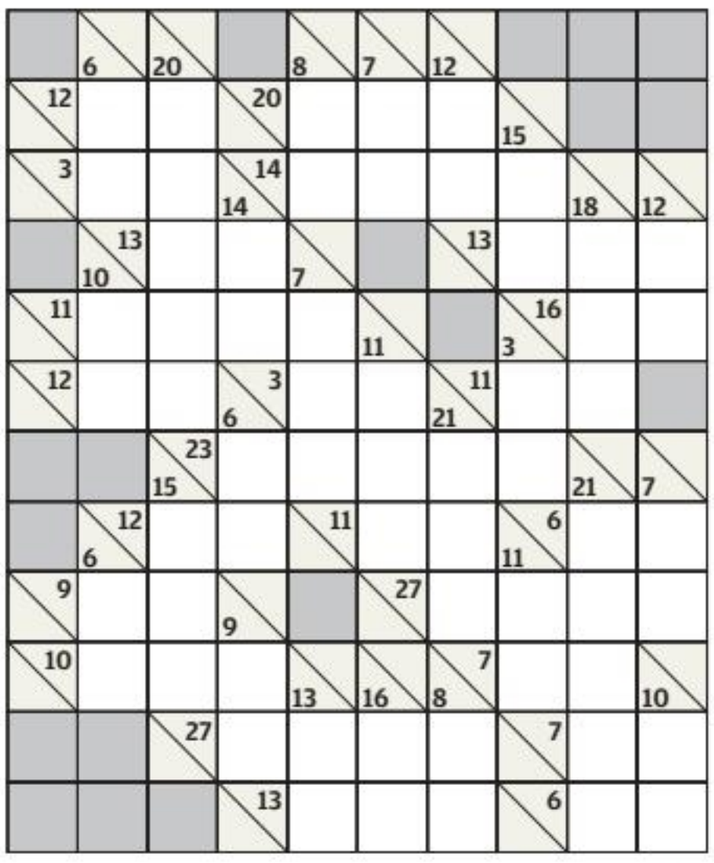
825128 gives a boy's name;
962123 gives a boys name;
457265 gives a boy's name.

KAKURO

Fill in the white squares with the numbers 1 to 9.

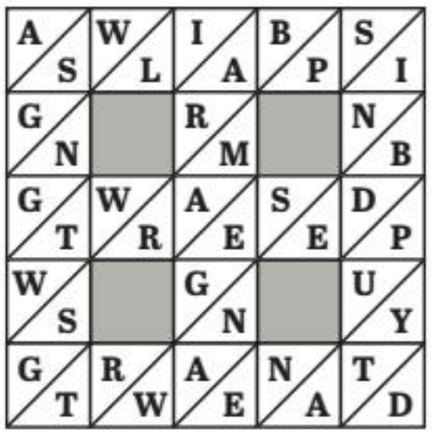
Each horizontal block of squares must add up to the number in the shaded square to its left, and each vertical block must add up to the number in the shaded square above it.

No number may be used more than once in any one block.



SPLIT DECISION

Cross out one of the two letters in each divided square to reveal a completed crossword grid.



SUDOKU

3		1		4				
			8		3	5		
4						8	1	
	7				6		9	
6								2
	5		2				7	
	6	8						4
		7	3		8			
				9		1		7

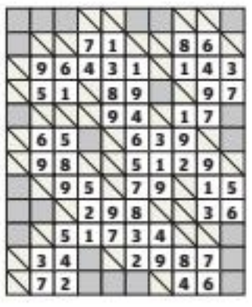
LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

CLOCKWORD:
1 Pebble, 2 Adhere, 3 Manage, 4 Settee, 5 Throne, 6 Change, 7 Little, 8 Entice, 9 Mirage, 10 Endure, 11 Nettle, 12 Temple.

CELEBRITY: Pam St Clement.

NINER:
SUBALTERN.

KAKURO:



SUDOKU:

6	8	9	1	2	5	3	4	7
3	5	1	4	7	8	2	6	9
7	2	4	3	6	9	8	1	5
9	3	2	5	8	6	4	7	1
5	1	8	7	4	2	6	9	3
4	7	6	9	1	3	5	2	8
1	9	5	6	3	4	7	8	2
8	6	3	2	9	7	1	5	4
2	4	7	8	5	1	9	3	6

SPLIT DECISION:

T	I	B	I	A
W		I		G
I	M	B	U	E
C		L		N
E	V	E	N	T

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Saturday 2nd December

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Route 'C' • Adult & OAP £15.00 • Child £7.50

Sunday 3rd December

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Route 'A' • Adult & OAP £21.00 • Child £14.00

Saturday 9th December

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Competition

WIN tickets to see Lulu at The Anvil

WE always try to bring you an exciting competition in the Observer, but this week we think we may have got the best one yet.

After some hard negotiating with the lovely folk at The Anvil we have managed to get two pairs of tickets to see one of the most highly acclaimed singers that this country has produced - Lulu!

Following on from her smash hit 2016 tour, Lulu returns with her biggest tour yet and comes to The Anvil on Friday 24 November. at 7:30.

Closing date: Sunday, Nov 19

There is one overriding influence in the life of this acclaimed singer, songwriter, actress, businesswoman, Grammy and Novello Award nominee, and that is it has always been 'All About the Music'.

Performing songs from a career spanning over 50 years, fans can expect to hear huge hits such as Shout, To Sir With Love, Relight My Fire and The Man Who Sold The World, as well as new songs and songs that have influenced and guided her throughout her incredible career.

Lulu says "I toured for the first time in 15 years in 2015 and haven't stopped since. I absolutely love playing live and can't wait to be out on the road again performing the music that I have shared with you throughout my career... it has always been all about the music... so please come and join me".

Tickets are priced at £41 (includes £2 booking fee). For more details or for tickets, call 01256 844244 or visit anvilarts.org.uk

Win tickets!

As mentioned above we have two pairs of tickets to give away and to be in with a chance of winning one all you have to do is answer the following simple question:

Q: Where was Lulu born?
Ireland, Scotland or Wales?

To enter this competition and more like it, go online to
www.basingstokeobserver.co.uk or
For full terms & conditions go to www.observergroup.co.uk/about-us

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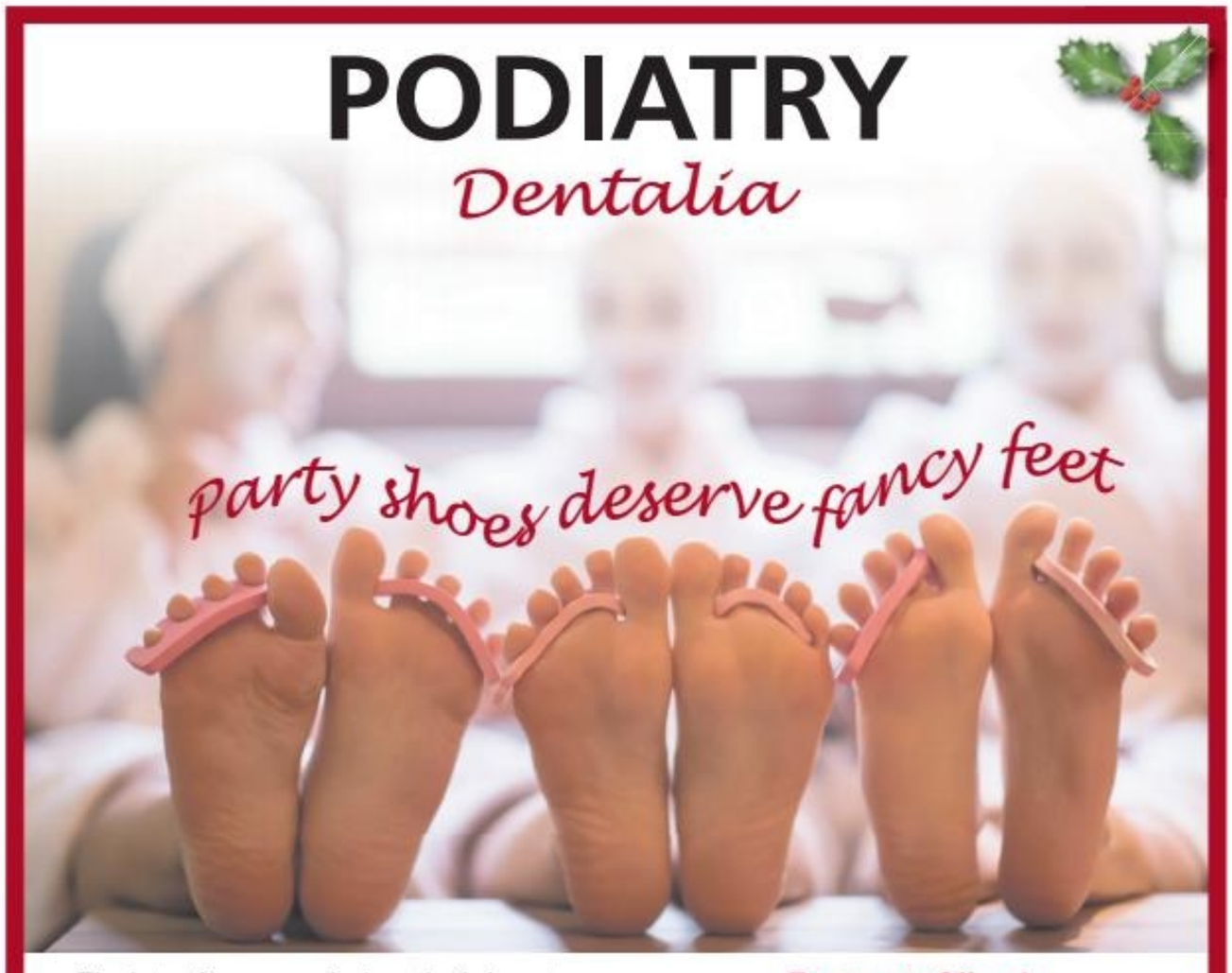

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Skoda Citigo – it's such a scream

By **Tony Yates**

SKODA has always put value for money at the forefront of everything they do, and in keeping with that, the Skoda Citigo is a small, value for money, city-friendly hatchback that is actually more sophisticated than most of its rivals and at a price that most of us looking for a small family car can easily afford.

Power and Efficiency

The Citigo I had on test had been fitted with a 1.0 MPi 60PS engine and is one of the best non turbo units I have come across in recent years.

Fuel consumption is around the 60mpg if you drive it without pushing too hard, and flat out you can expect to achieve a max speed of around 100mph and 0-62 time of around 14sec.

I know what you are all thinking though – is it slow? Well actually it nips around really well and it does not feel underpowered at all.

On the Road

The little Citigo is a scream – it's easy to drive and feels brilliant for such a small car, but you do need to remember this is not a race car. It's an eco warrior that was designed to save you money as well as look good.

As for the handling – I would give it five stars because it's as good as the competition when the road gets twisty. Also, it's actually very quiet and quite refined. While the ride is a little bouncy, it's pretty decent really thanks mainly to Skoda doing a pretty good job on the suspension setup.

Safety and Technology

The safety side of the Citigo is impressive too – with standard equipment like anti-lock braking, driver's and front passenger's airbags and electronic stability control. As with all Skodas the interior is a little bland – but functional – but I like the body coloured dash panel and the centre speedo which gives it a better feel all round. The seats are very good and hold you firm.

There is also an array of kit such as 15-inch auriga black alloy wheels, electric front windows, front fog lamps, manual air-conditioning, AM/FM radio including colour display with aux-in and SD card, USB ports, six speakers and Bluetooth, rear seat backrest split 60/40, remote central locking and sunset glass.

To Sum Up

It's a great little car for doing the school run and for all the times when you need to nip into town to do a little retail therapy.

There is no doubt in my mind that Citigo will live with you for a very long time and you will instantly replace it with another when the time is right.

To be honest it's like your secret little friend that will make you feel happy every time you turn the key to go off on another little adventure.

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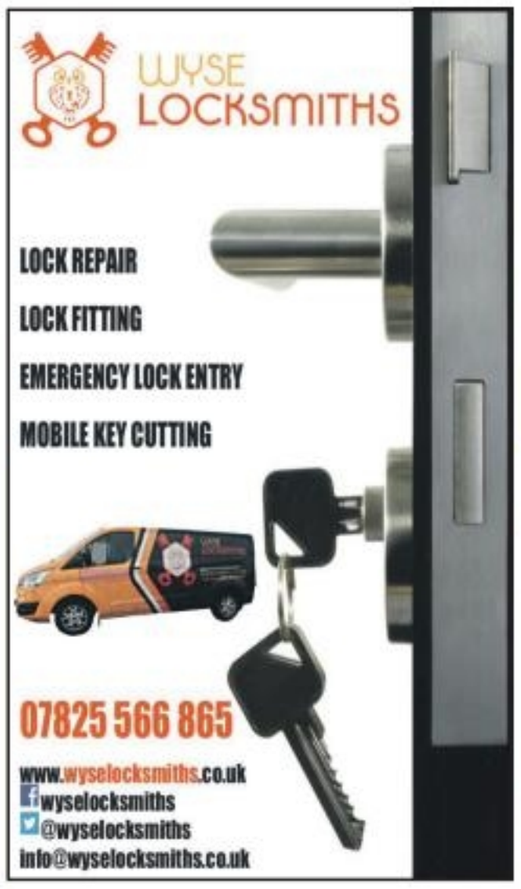

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SYLVIA, 44yrs, curvy busty build. Very respectful. Hoping to meet a good man to love. Call to hear more, I've lots to tell you. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 429045**

TAMIKA, mature black beauty, hourglass figure and open minded. Pls call if you are discreet, broad minded and nice. I can travel and accommodate. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3007 Box 422365**

man seeking

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IAN, 65, 5ft6, lonely widower, good cook, likes a movie and a glass of wine, loads of cuddles, looking for a nice lady, 50-70, for LTR. Newbury. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 429199**

HI my name is Roy, I'm 5ft6, blue eyes, living in Newbury, looking for a lady between 50-75. I'm just lonely and looking for a relationship so give me a ring please. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 429111**

MALE, 65, widower, likes gardening, football, films on TV, WLTM my soul mate, I'm lonely and looking for love. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 429129**

HI my name is Roy, I'm 5ft6, blue eyes, living in Newbury, looking for a lady between 50-75. I'm just lonely and looking for a relationship so give me a ring please. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 429111**

MALE, 59, N/S, medium build, 5ft7, from Berkshire, no ties, enjoys days out, sporting events and lots more, seeking a nice lady, 30-60, who is honest and reliable, for friendship and hopefully more. If you would like to get in touch please do. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 428289**

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Observer Sport

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THIS WEEK: WIN A PAIR OF TICKETS TO SEE LULU AT THE ANVIL!

Row notch up second round victory to progress in Trophy

By George Welch

HISTORY-MAKERS Hartley Wintney beat Swindon Supermarine 3-0 to win their second ever FA Trophy tie.

The Evo-Stik South East side put in an assured performance away from home to progress into the second qualifying round, where they face a handsome Hampshire derby tie against Gosport Borough.

The Row took the lead midway through the first half when Jake Baxter finished well from the spot, and that's the way it stayed until two goals in four minutes around the hour mark put the game to bed.

Former Luton Town, Birmingham City and QPR striker Rowan Vine headed in a corner for a debut goal on 58 minutes before Jack French struck a thunderbolt into the back of the net moments later to make it 3-0 and game over.

The FA Trophy was less kind to Basingstoke Town, who crashed out of the competition and to their second defeat to Dorchester Town already this season.

It could have been a different story had 'Stoke not been so wasteful in front of goal – Sam Argent, Ben Wright and Sam Smart all went close for Terry Brown's men.

Shortly after the restart, and against the run of play, substitute Phil Ormrod put the Magpies in front with a smashed finish from six yards.

The striker doubled the home side's advantage when he coolly converted a penalty.

Argent, who arguably provided the Dragons' best offensive threat, stooped to head home a free-kick for a deserved goal – but it was the last action of the game and 'Stoke were knocked out.

The two sides played out a 1-1 draw at the Camrose last week, and Basingstoke lost 1-0 at the Avenue earlier in the season.

The Dragons are back in league action on Saturday with a trip to King's Langley.

Hartley Wintney, who will host south coast side Gosport in the next round of the FA Trophy on November 11, return to league action against Barton Rovers at The Memorial Fields on Saturday.

Former Hartley Wintney striker Sam Argent scored for Basingstoke Town, who he joined last month, but it was his old team that progressed in the FA Trophy. Picture: Steve Gridley

Bison extinguish Fire with 17 goals over weekend

THE unstoppable Basingstoke Bison stampede showed no sign of slowing down with another four-point weekend after extinguishing Cardiff Fire at the weekend – twice.

Notching a hat-trick in both wins, Tomas Karpov, pictured, was the shining star of the weekend to help 'Stoke to their seventh win from seven NIHL1 matches.

His first treble came in Saturday's 5-1 home win, while Ryan Sutton and Daniel Davies added to the expected victory.

The Herd made even less work of the Fire in the return fixture the following day, handing out a 12-2 thumping at the Ice Arena Wales.

Karpov chalked up his second hat-trick in as many days with a goal in every period.

Kurt Reynolds, Hallam Wilson, Daniel Scott, Sutton, Josh Smith, Davies and Aaron Connolly (twice) completed the rout.

Of the four-point weekend, Bison head coach Doug Sheppard said: "We enjoyed two good, convincing wins and it was a great chance for us to give the younger members of the squad the ice time they've been pushing for.

"We worked hard this weekend to ensure we didn't have a repeat of the previous weekend and we know we have to keep working hard to keep this momentum going."

Bison host Milton Keynes Thunder in the league on Saturday before visiting Telford Tigers in the national cup.

Hat-trick hero Tomas Karpov Picture: grantkingphotography.com

Buffalo crushed under stampede of goals from shining Stars

BASINGSTOKE Buffalo were mauled 18-1 as their trip to Oxford City Stars on Sunday turned into a pre-Halloween horror show.

The Stars somehow shone even brighter and built on the 14-2 win in the previous fixture the week before, meaning Buffalo leaked a scary 32 goals in two games against the Oxford side.

Connor Hutchinson got the only goal of the game for 'Stoke, who are now in 10th place following a forgettable couple of weeks.

Hutchinson struck in the 34th minute – when his side were already 11 goals down.

Darren Elliot netted his second hat-trick in seven days while Dax Hedges, Dominic Hopkins, Kamil Kinkor, Mike Whillock, Joshua Oliver and Joshua Florey all scored braces.

Other strikes came from Stewart Tait, Matthew Lawday and Conor Redmond as Stars shot to second in the NIHL2 table and took their goalscoring tally to 46 in three games.

The most destructive period of the game for Basingstoke was the first period, when they found themselves 8-0 down within 18 minutes.

Hedges, Redmond, Whillock, Kinkor and Oliver struck in the first 11 minutes before Florey, Hopkins and Lawday added three goals in three minutes.

Buffalo, in need of a confidence-boosting win, host winless Slough Jets on Saturday.

Sport Bites

Nightmare match

FOOTBALL: Basingstoke Town Ladies' nightmare season continued with a 10-0 drubbing at home to Keynsham Town Ladies on Sunday.

Kerry Bartlett found the back of the net four times in the first half hour on the way to a double hat-trick.

Katie Cook, Justine Lorton (twice) and Christina Vega Leandro also scored for Keynsham, who inflicted winless Basingstoke's sixth defeat in eight matches.

Horror show

RUGBY: Another week, another defeat for Basingstoke RFC, who lost 53-3 at home to Old Tiffinians on Saturday.

'Stoke, who continue to anchor the London 3 South West table and are yet to collect a point, have a points difference of -400 after just seven games.

They host fourth-placed Trojans on Saturday.

New contract

CRICKET: Hampshire all-rounder Ian Holland has signed a new two-year contract that will keep him at the Ageas Bowl until at least the end of the 2019 season.

The 27-year-old, who won Australian show Cricket Superstar in 2012, took 19 County Championship Division One wickets in eight appearances last season, averaging 18.47.

The right-armer said: "It's great the club have shown faith in me. I thoroughly enjoyed my first season with the first team."

Gaining ground

FOOTBALL: Tadley Calleva drew 2-2 at home to Totton & Eling on Saturday to gain a point on Wessex League Division One leaders Laverstock & Ford, who lost 4-0.

It was a more successful afternoon for Whitchurch United who beat New Milton Town 4-0 at Longmeadow.

Second-placed Tadley, unbeaten in three and two points behind Laverstock, travel to Alton on Saturday, while Whitchurch make the trip to Romsey Town.

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Inside: Row's FA Trophy win for third round tie | Bison put out Fire with weekend of wins | Buffalo crushed by a stampede of goals

Rose wins first trophy in two years with final round glory

By George Welch

JUSTIN Rose staged the biggest comeback of the season to win the WGC-HSBC Champions in Shanghai after a record collapse by world number one Dustin Johnson.

The north Hampshire golfer posed with the trophy from the balcony high above the 18th green at Sheshan International – but it didn't seem possible at the start of the day.

Rose, who celebrated his first win since his Olympic triumph in Rio, began the final round eight shots behind Johnson with a share of fourth place.

While Johnson, bidding to become the first man to win three WGC events in a year, slumped to a 77, new world number six Rose carded a stunning 31 on the back nine to secure a final round of 67 and record a two-shot victory.

The win is Rose's second WGC win and elevates him to third in the Race to Dubai rankings.

The 37-year-old picked up €1,399,804 in prize money – his first winning cheque since claiming the Zurich Classic of New Orleans in 2015.

Rose was in fine form across the entire four days and was never lower than tied sixth at the end of each round.

The 2013 US Open winner opened with a first round of 67 and was tied third heading into the weekend following Friday's four-under par second round.

Rose stuttered on day three to record par and drift seemingly too far behind the flying Johnson, who had launched himself to the top of the leaderboard thanks to a magical second round of nine-under par.

Rose failed to muster much of a challenge on the front nine on the final day and headed into the final nine holes on par for the day.

But birdies on 11, 13, 14, 16 and 17 meant Rose completed an historic comeback.

Johnson played his part though and his calamitous collapse matched the record for losing a six-shot lead.

The unwanted record is also held by, most recently, Sergio Garcia at Quail Hollow in 2005 and, most famously, by Greg Norman in the 1996 Masters.

Johnson ended up tying for second with Henrik Stenson and Brooks Koepka.

Bison on fire!
Roman Malinik, who got three assists on Sunday, tries his luck against Cardiff Fire
Picture: grantkingphotography.com
BASINGSTOKE BISON
5 HOLE PHOTOGRAPHY

Basingstoke Bison's irresistible league form continued with home and away wins against bottom side Cardiff Fire.
With seven wins from seven, the Herd are the only NIHL1 side with a perfect record, although they sit in third place with games in hand.
Yet there seems no stopping Doug Sheppard's side, who eased past Cardiff Fire 5-1 at Planet Ice on Saturday before crushing the same opposition 12-2 the next day in Wales.
See inside for the full report.

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